(c) Factors such as increased escalation, changes in the scope of work due to design improvements necessitated by safety requirements, variations in exchange rate, changes in taxes and duties are beyond the control of the management of the NPCIL which is implementing these projects. A reduction in the construction period will contribute substantially in containing the IDC and the overall project cost. Monthly and quarterly monitoring of project activities including delivery of equipment, paralleling of erection and commissioning activities and phasewise commissioning of different systems are the major steps taken to expedite completion of the project. Government is alive to the fact that provision of adequate and timely resources can contribute to expeditious and cost-effective implementation of projects, and makes all efforts towards this end.

Installed Capacity of Atomic Power Plants

2066. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that currently the atomic power plants are operating below their installed capacities for power generation;

(b) if so, the plant-wise power generation against their installed capacities during the last three years;

(c) what has been the rate of return on capital employed in these plants for the period;

(d) whether it is a fact that these power plants would not be able to pay back the investments; and

(e) if not, what steps are taken to revitalise the operations of the atomic power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The details of original installed capacities, revised capacities, gross generation and capacity utilisation during the three financial years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 in respect of Nuclear Power Stations in commercial operation by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) are given below:

Station	Original Installed Capacity (MWe)	Revised† rated capacity (MWe)	90-91		91-92		92-93	
			Gen. MUs	CF %	Gen. MUs	CF %	Gen. MUs	CF %
TAPS 1 & 2	2×210	2×160 (from 1985)	1904	68	1711	61	1935	69
RAPS 2	220	200 (from 1-4-91)	1310	68	1062	60	925	53
MAPS 1 & 2	2×235	2×220$ (from 1-1-92)	2075	50	2160	53	1978	51
NAPS 1 & 2	2×235	2×220 (from 1-1-92)	286* (Unit 1)	56	532 (unit 1)	26	1680*	50

MWe = Mega Watts Electrical; CF = Capacity Factor; Gen. MUs = Generation in Million Units
APS = Atomic Power Station; T—Tarapur; R—Rajasthan; M—Madras; N—Narora.

Notes

1.† The capacities of the power stations were revised based on technical considerations and the experience of operations.

2.* Dates of commencement of commercial operation: 1-1-1991 for NAPS—1; 1-7-1992 for NAPS—2

3.$ The operating power levels of MAPS 1 & 2 are restricted to 175 MWe per unit by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) since end 1989 consequent on the implementation of interim solution to solve the moderator inlet manifold problem.

4. The CFs are with reference to prevalent rated capacities.

(c) A rate of return of 12% is provided in the tariff on the capital employed (net fixed assets plus working capital) at the normative capacity factor which is generally 62.8% fixed in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority. The details of rates of return for the operating stations are as follows :—

Year	TAPS-1 & 2	RAPS-2*	MAPS-1 & 2	NAPS-1 & 2
1990-91	17.18%	15.13%	10.41%	14.55% (Unit 1 only)
1991-92	13.03%	9.00%	9.46%	(−) 1.60% (Unit 1 only)
1992-93 (Provisional)	14.21%	(−) 1.22%	2.04%	9.45%

*The tariff is due for revision since April 1990.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) TAPS-1 & 2 has been performing well. The other Stations have been established with increasing indigenous efforts both on the nuclear and conventional sides. Several problems have been faced and have been overcome with indigenous Research and Development efforts. Improvement of capacity factor and reducing the unplanned outages is a continuous exercise. It may also be pointed out that indigenous development of nuclear technology has manifold benefits to the Nation.

Gas Cracker Project in Assam

@2067. SHRI BHANDRESWAR GOHAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present position of the proposed Gas Cracker Project in Assam.

(b) whether the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been signed and if so, the details;

(c) whether the site for the project has been selected and if so, where; and

(d) by when the work on the said project is likely to start ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) who hold the Letter of Intent for setting up the Gas Cracker Project in Assam, have informed that they are taking action to tie up the co-promoter for implementing the project.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A site near Duliajan in Dibrugarh district in Upper Assam has been provisionally selected for the project.

(d) The project work can commence immediately after the signing of the MOU with the co-promoter and completion of other pre-project formalities.

Decanalisation of Import of MOP, MAP & SOP

2068. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM : DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decanalised the import of murate of potash (MOP), Mono-Immonium Phosphate (MAP) and Sulphate of Potash (SOP), if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that buyers with small orders would not be able to get better terms from overseas suppliers and shippers;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that the prices of Potassic fertiliser would rise and adversely affect the farmers; and

(d) if so, what steps Government would take to contain the rising prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) The imports of MOP, MAP and SOP have been decanalised so that the farmers may benefit from competitive imports. There is no apprehension in that decanalisation would lead to a rise in the price of potassic fertilisers.

@ Previously unstarred Question 1210, transferred from 4-8-93.